

## NORMANDY INVASION

Doc Hall is a veteran of World War II whose campaigns include the invasion of France at Normandy. These days, he continues to serve his fellow man as senior volunteer at Riley Hospital in Meridian.

PHOTO BY GEORGIA E. FRYE  
THE MERIDIAN STAR



# World War II veteran's advice to young soldiers

*Doc Hall is the senior volunteer at Riley Hospital in Meridian and a World War II veteran. Here's how he answered the question, "If you could talk right now to a military person overseas, what would you tell her or her?"*

**By Doc Hall**

special to The Star

At age 15, I ran away from home and joined the military. I was only 17 years old when I participated in the invasion of France at the beach of Normandy.

Seriously injured, I lost my right arm. After returning to The States to recover, I led a normal life. I got married in 1949. We had a daughter in 1953, and I worked for the United States Post Office for 25 years.

My advice to you is to practice the safe measures you have learned, but remember that if you should become injured, that your life is not over. I have faced many challenges in my life, and have had many rewarding experiences.

I continue to give back to my community by volunteering at Riley Hospital. Serving others is a way of life for people like us.

I am proud to know that you are doing the same thing by serving your country and hope that you will return to your hometown and family with no major injuries. Knowing that you have served your country during a time of need is something you can be proud of for the rest of your life.

May God bless you and bring you home safe.

## SPEAK UP

*Here's how these Meridian residents answered the question, "How long do you think the war in Iraq will last? Why?" This group of people was interviewed in December 2004.*

"I really don't think we can put a time on it. It will end whenever the job gets done."

**Erin Johnson, 16**

"Right now, it is hard to put a time on it. I think we will have a better idea when the elections in Iraq are over."

**Abby Havard, 16**

"Who knows when the war will be over. It all really depends on how the election goes."

**Brandi Scarbrough, 16**

"I don't think anyone really knows how long it's going to last. So much is going on right now, especially with the elections. Hopefully, once the elections are over, we won't be over there much longer."

**Danielle Jones, 15**

"It think it will last as long as Bush sees fit because I think he wants everything to be right over there. So, until Bush is satisfied, the war will continue to go on."

**Courtney Roberts, 15**

"According to our president, the war is already over."

**Matt Butler, 16**

"I think the war will end as soon as the United States realizes that it can't stop the fighting in the Middle East."

**Rashad Walker, 15**

"I don't know anyone can predict when the war will end; it will all depend on how the elections go."

**Jessica Smith, 17**

"It seems like it is going to go on forever, but who really knows."

**Susie Hall, 76**

*Shamir Gordon, a sophomore at Southeast Lauderdale High School, compiled this Speak Up question. She is a member of Good Hope CME Church in the Russell community. She enjoys talking on the phone, shopping and spending time with her family. Shamir wants to become a pediatric nurse.*